

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-01 SAM-01

L-02 IO-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

PRS-01 SR-02 ORM-01 DPW-01 DRC-01 /052 W

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R 210803Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4460

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4020

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, KS, KN

SUBJ: SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS TALKS

REF: A. SEOUL 3570 B. SEOUL 3916 C. SEOUL 2996

1. KNRC VICE PRESIDENT LEE BUM SUK HAS GIVEN US FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF HIS TRIP TO GENEVA (REF A) AND FLORENCE (REF B).

2. IN GENEVA, LEE PERSUADED ICRC DELEGATE GENERAL FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC TO WRITE THREE MORE LETTERS TO NORTH KOREAN RED CROSS. FIRST LETTER REFERS TO APRIL ICRC PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO KOREAN RED CROSS SOCIETIES MEET IN GENEVA AND IN ACCORD WITH PROPOSAL FROM SOUTH KOREA SUGGESTS THAT MEETING TAKE PLACE BY END OF JULY. SECOND LETTER FORWARDS LIST OF CREW MEMBERS MISSING AFTER FEB 15 FISHING BOAT INCIDENT, NOTING THAT LIST WAS COMPILED BY FEDERATION OF KOREAN TRADE UNIONS AND TAKEN TO GENEVA BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ROK OFFICE OF LABOR. LETTER INFORMS NORTH THAT QUOTE THE ICRC, FROM A STRICTLY HUMANITARIAN POINT OF VIEW, THINKS THAT, ACCORDING TO A PRACTICE GENERALLY ADOPTED, FAMILIES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO KNOW WHO IS DEAD AND WHO IS ALIVE AND TO RECEIVE NEWS ABOUT THE DETAINED, UNQUOTE, AND ASKS NORTH FOR ITS  
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COMMENTS.

3. THIRD LETTER FORWARDS LIST OF SOUTH KOREANS REPORTED AS MISSING DURING PERIOD 1954 TO MARCH 1974, AND BELIEVED TO BE DETAINED BY NORTH. NOTING THAT LIST WAS PROVIDED BY KNRC WITH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE MISSING PERSONS. LETTER STATES QUOTE THE ICRC DECLARES ITSELF READY, IF THIS COULD FACILITATE THIS WORK (OF TRACING) IN ANY WAY, TO SEND TO NORTH KOREA AN EXPERIENCED ICRC DELEGATE AND PUT HIM AT THE DISPOSAL OF YOUR SOCIETY UNQUOTE. IT ALSO CONCLUDES WITH REQUEST FOR COMMENT.

4. LEE SAID HE PERSUADED ICRC TO ALLOW HIM TO PUBLICIZE ITS EFFORTS ON KOREA. AS REPORTED REF B, LEE USED OCCASION OF FLORENCE CONFERENCE TO REVEAL APRIL ICRC LETTER TO NORTH. HE EXPECTS RECENT LETTERS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC IN A FEW DAYS, AT DECISION OF ROKG.

5. LEE SAID FLORENCE CONFERENCE WENT AS REPORTED IN ROK PRESS (REF B). IN HIS VIEW, PRIMARY VALUE OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS THERE WAS IN ROK DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. HE TERMED CONFERENCE ITSELF NOT TOO IMPORTANT BUT IT DID ENABLE HIM TO ASSOCIATE ICRC WITH ROK POSITION. KEY TO SUCCESS WAS SUPPORT HE OBTAINED FOR ROK RESOLUTION FROM NEUTRAL DELEGATIONS SUCH AS THOSE OF SWEDEN AND IRAN.

6. LEE WAS PLEASED THAT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE ICRC OFFICIALS THAT NO FURTHER PROGRESS COULD BE EXPECTED EITHER IN SOUTH-NORTH TALKS OR IN RESPONSE TO ICRC'S APRIL PROPOSAL. PRIMARILY HE BELIEVES HE HAS SUBSTANTIALLY ADDED TO RECORD OF NORTH KOREAN INTRANSIGENCE ON NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS.

7. COPIES OF LETTERS BEING POUCHED.  
HABIB

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING AGENDA, KIA, MIA, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POW, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS TALKS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PDEV, KS, KN, ICRC, (LEE BUM SUK)  
**To:** STATE  
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